



THE EASTERN IOWA DX'ER

SPRING 1995

CLUB NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTERN IOWA DX ASSOCIATION

EIDXA MEETING NOTICE

Date: 21st of April 1995 (Friday)

Time: 7:30 pm (door open at 6:30)

Place: Room 234 (**NOTE THAT THIS IS A NEW ROOM**)
Cedar Hall (ENTER THE RIGHT DOOR AND 180 TO)
Kirkwood Community College (THE LEFT)
Cedar Rapids

Agenda: This will be a joint meeting with CVARC to let both groups meet with Lew, K4VX, and to hear NØVYV relate his insight on tower installations.

Plan on attending

1995 EIDXA Officers

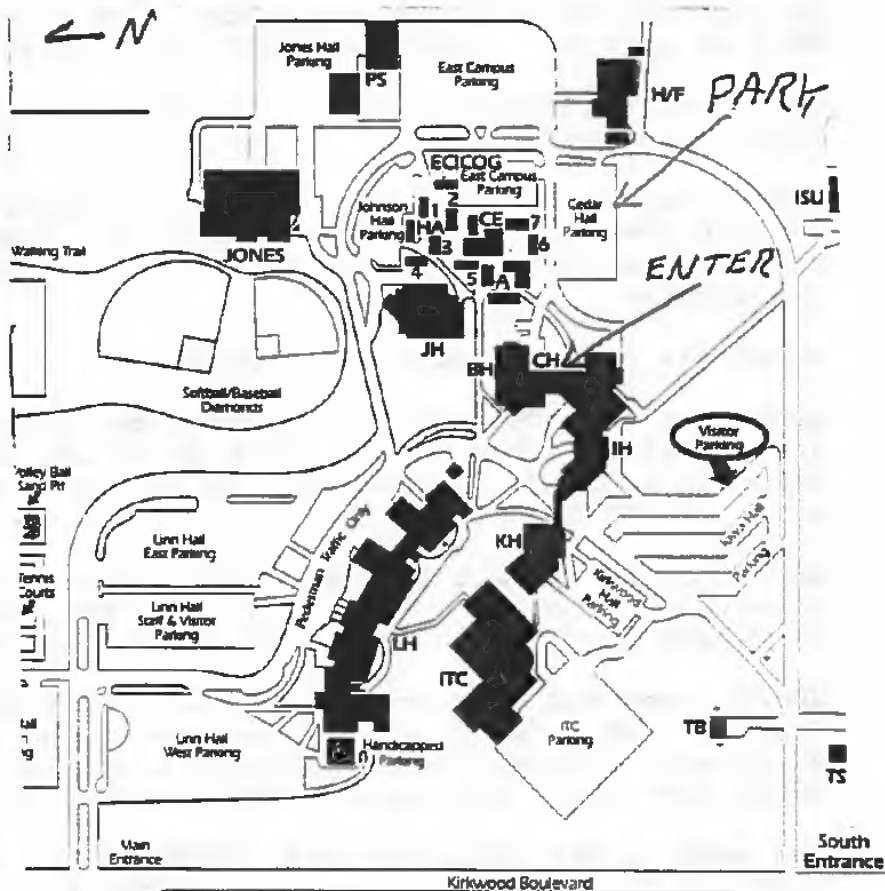
President: WØSR Jim Spencer
V. Pres: WØBZRL Tom Vavra
Sec/Tres: KØGT Gary Toomsen

Repeater Committee:
KØVM Al Groff
WØMJN Joe Finkstein

Membership Committee:
WØSR Jim Spencer
WØIZ Dale Repp

EIDXA Repeater:
145.190 WØMJN

DX Cluster:
147.51 144.91
223.40 WØBZRL



Minutes Winter 1995 meeting

The winter meeting of the EIDX was called to order at 7:30 pm on January 20, 1995 in Linn Hall on the Kirkwood Campus by President W0SR.

Members present:

K0GT, W0OU, W00B, NU0P, W00ZRL, KE0MO, KE0Y, W0IZ, K0INR, K0AL, W0SML, W0PPF, W00Q, KU0A, K0VM, W0GWK, NN9K, AB9W, KA0CNN, AA0GG, W0WF, W0EJ, KZ0C, WD0AWL, W0SR, NY0V, KC0Q

Guests:

NR0X, N0YVY, W0OF, NBZN, K9WA

W0SR related some of the history of the founding of the club 20 years ago, how the group has grown and changed.

The minutes of the October meeting were amended to correct the call sign of KJ0H who had rejoined the club at the October meeting.

The treasury balance brought forward was \$624.72 plus \$50 dues collected at the January meeting less \$64.57 newsletter copying and mailing expenses for a new balance of \$610.15.

W0EJ gave a tower committee update. The number of people who attended the public comment meeting of the Linn County Board of Supervisors in October along with the presentations made that night did make an impression. Wade feels that there are reasons to be at least somewhat optimistic. There is to be a meeting of the Supervisors January 24th to discuss the proposed ordinance. There is no plan for public input at this session. W0EJ and W00ZRL plan to attend as observers.

K0VM reported nothing new on the repeater. Just like the energizer bunny it keeps going.

W00ZRL reported that during the CQWWCW contest there were 4400 alerts through the packet cluster in 48 hours. Everyone is encouraged to use common sense during the contest periods as well as other times in using the cluster.

AA0GG was voted in as a full member.

W0SR gave the DXAC report. Items under their consideration currently are: Pratis Island vote; Aruba deletion; Kingdom of Mustang and Scott Island. No interest at the league in a new mobile DXCC or any other new DXCC awards.

W0SR thanked all who participated in the survey for club interest and activities. He is still open to more new ideas. Awards for the ARRL DX CW and Phone contests of 1994 were given to W0PPF and AA0ME.

W00ZRL reported his conversation with Bob, W4NIM, finds him still in Florida. He is working to recover from the financial setback of his daughters illness. He is planning a cruise down the South American coast next year, and still hopes to make his global circumnavigation.

The meeting was adjourned and W00ZRL gave a talk on 4 square low band antennas that has a number of us thinking. As an added attraction we had the showing of video from the ZD9SXW dxpedition.

Respectively,

K0GT

Serious Reflections

Spring is the time when the thoughts of an Old Man should turn from snow shovels and taxes to Antennas and the Dayton Hamvention. I hope that you have finished your winter chores and that you are ready to enjoy the next six months of outdoor weather. At the W0SR household, I still have tasks stacked up from the past three or four winters, but what the heck. The planned move of my shack from the present room to a larger room will have to wait--July/August is the next window. I also have some serious antenna work on the agenda. My 80/40 meter vertical went down in the early fall and my inverted vee has a problem. Guess who didn't work much this year on the low bands? There is always another year! Right?

As noted elsewhere, we are fortunate to have K4VX in Cedar Rapids again. It is a short trip for Lew, en-route to somewhere else. We managed to arrange a joint meeting with the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club so that he can meet with a greater number of area hams. The program will be of interest to any DXer with Steve Sawyers, N0YUY, telling us the secrets of tower installation. Wade Walstrom, W0EJ, will also be updating us with the latest progress on the Linn County Tower Ordinance. With two clubs meeting at the same time, our business meeting will be limited but it should all be worthwhile. I have also ordered the 9M0S video of the 1993 Spratly Islands DXpedition. With the current 9M0A activity, this should prove to be interesting and timely. I hope that you will all be able to attend.

Does the EIDX need its own club call sign? With the recent FCC Vanity Call Ruling, changes were made allowing amateur clubs to choose a call sign. It has been some years since this has been possible. Your club officers met and decided that the EIDX should go for our own call and we have applied. We should be assigned a 2 X 3 call from the current block. At "Gate 2" we will be able to request calls just like an individual. At "Gate 4" we could consider choosing a call held by a deceased member, if the call is still available. I would like to choose a small subcommittee to supplement the club officers in selecting some desired calls to enter into the lottery. If interested, please let me know.

Some unfinished business: my last newsletter article attempted to recall the history of the Eastern Iowa DX Association over the last twenty years. One mystery remained unsolved. I tried to remember who attended the very first meeting. I asked some of the charter bunch and they attempted to remember and list that first group. Thanks to WB8ZRL who found the minutes of the first meeting, we now know for sure. For the history books, the meeting was held at W0MJN's house on October 6, 1975. Those in attendance were: Vern Garman, K0EGA; Gayle Lawson, W0FLY(W0FO); Mike Nowak, WB0HOG; Joe Finkstein, W0MJN; Fred Benson, W0MUH(K0AT); Lynn Schriener, W0PCO (WSFO); Doug Byal, W0SML; Steve Towle, K0SVW; Dave Jaksa, WA0V DX (W0VX); Tom Lindgren, WA0WCR (W0WP) and Jim Spencer, W0FHE (W0SR). WA0V DX was elected President, W0PCO was elected Vice President and W0FHE was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Now you know.

I hope to see many of you at the Dayton DX forum. I also hope you have a great Spring and that you do work some of the DX that still manages to sneak through, even without very many sunspots.

AUTЕК REVIEW

The ice storms of December took my 40-60 meter inverted vee down. After the construction of the new inverted vee, and finding the SWR was higher than it should be, I decided to purchase an antenna analyzer. You have your choice among the Palomar R-X noise bridge, two MFJ analyzers, and the Autek RF-1. I chose the Autek because of price, ease of use, and the promise that I could prune the dipole to the proper length with little trouble.

Although Autek recommends making all final adjustments at the antenna feed point, I elected to make mine at the end of the feed line. A minus-1 degree wind chill factor will make you think twice about climbing a tower. Not only did the Autek tell me what my SWR was, I found my resonate frequency, the impedance of the antenna, and how much to shorten each leg of the dipole.

This a accomplished by the following formula -

Length of Antenna X Resonate Frequency / Frequency Desired.

For example, if you erect a 70 foot dipole for 40 meters (35 feet on each leg) and it is resonate at 6.52 MHz, multiply the 70 feet length times 6.52 MHz and divide by 7.1 MHz (desired resonate frequency). This will equal 64.29 feet. You then need to subtract the 64.29 feet from the original length of 70 foot dipole length. This equals 5.7 feet or 2 feet 10 inches cut from each leg. This is a big adjustment, so you might want to only remove 2 feet and repeat the procedure a second time. This little box, which measures 4.5" x 2.5" x 1.5" and gives you your information from a .5" high LCD display, will also let you: a.) measure impedance; b.) find the resonate frequency of traps; c.) tune your tuner without transmitting; d.) determine cable impedance; e.) make 1/4 or 1/3 wavelength feedlines; f.) and several other tests only the die hard Ham might require.

I really believe this little box will encourage me to do a lot more experimenting with my antenna system. Maybe now I can get those slopers to play.

The Autek RF-1 sells for \$129.95 and is available only directly from Autek. I ordered mine on a Friday and it was delivered on the next Thursday. For a more complete review of this RF analyst, see the February 95 issue of World Radio.

73 de WD0AWL

Area 'Fests de WB0ZKG

MAY 12-13 HAMBOREE #17 S.SIOUX CITY,NEB. @ MARINA INN. TALKIN 146.91,
CONTACT DICK PITNER , W0FZO
MAY 14 CIRAS, MARSHALLTOWN HAMFEST AT MCC. FOR INFO CALL EVAN FOLK,
N0JGB, 515-476-3264
MAY 20- KANSAS CITY HAMFEST, FOR INFO CALL 816-781-7313
MAY 21 VALLEY EMERGENCY COMM. ASSOC. AT BURLINGTON,IA. ***CANCELED***
MAY 27 NC0P,TONI'S FREE TAILGATE PARTY, MITCHELLVILLE,IA.
JUNE 4 HAMFEST AT PRINCETON,ILL.
JUNE 10 DMRAA HAMFEST DES MOINES,IA.
AUG 13 CEDAR RAPIDS HAMFEST , ON "J" ST. FOR INFO CALL WAYNE KOLOSIK,
N0UGK 319-393-4224
SEPT 30 NC0P, TONI'S FREE TAILGATE PARTY IN MITCHELLVILLE,IA.

Meet our newest member AA0GG

Frank Weigelt, AA0GG, is our newest member. He was unable to get his license until 1989, after a 21 year career in the Uncle Sam's Air Force. (Those constant moves do put a crimp on you operating ed.) Frank wasted no time and upgraded to Extra in 1991. Frank's Iowa City QTH sports a Cushcraft tribander at 55 feet, driven by a Yaesu FT1000D Henry 2K Classic combo. A GAP vertical covers the low bands and helps with the spotting. A big Wilson tribander sits in the garage awaiting a chance to raise it atop the tower. A packet setup rounds out the station.

Frank currently has 268 worked with 258 confirmed. He admits to the thrill of working the new one, and especially when he worked the last Penguin Island operation on the last day before it reverted to Namibia. He has his eyes on the Honor Roll, like all true blue DXers. He is working hard to get as comfortable working CW as he is on SSB. Frank admits that a big dream is to be part of a DXpedition "to one of the rare (but WARM) ones." Multi-op contest stations take note: Frank is looking for a place to help contest.

Especially Memorable QSOs

(Several weeks ago, I put a note on the PacketCluster asking for some specific member inputs for the newsletter. What I had in mind was an especially memorable QSO that you will never forget, and occasionally relate to your friends. I did not get any responses, so you will have to settle for my own story and one of a friend. I would like to use your stories in the next newsletter. ed)

by WB8ZRL

It was 1979, and I had been licensed three years. I still had a long way to go up the DXCC ladder, and the famous DXers were revered and held in great awe. This was a year of excellent conditions and the DX was sure plentiful. One night I was rag chewing on 15 SSB with a station in South America. After a short QSO I signed, only to be called by 9N1MM. Father Moran was coming in long path over the South pole with a S7 signal, and he was calling me! He wanted to chat, but after a few overs I could hear those gathering, waiting for us to finish. I offered several times to QRT so he could have the frequency, but he just wanted to chat. I was almost as nervous as I was on my first QSO. That this rare country, and famous DXer just wanted to talk to me was really an experience for me at that stage of my DX career. It is one I won't forget.

by KB3KV

It was the spring of 1979. For the first time since the early 70s, Spratly was being activated. The first landing attempt was abandoned when they drew fire from soldiers on the island. After selecting another island they landed and came on the air. The pile ups were very big. My only real chance (due to work schedule) came one evening on 10 meter SSB. They had an excellent signal and they were working by call areas. At this time the 10M ssb band was 28500 and up. The 1S was on 28495 and was listening up around 28600. Not a problem, you say. My FT-101E did not have an outboard VFO. The clarifier (actually an RIT) would offset a few KC, but not 100KC. The dial had a spinner knob on it and I started spinning back and forth. I finally heard him call me. I spun back to the spot where I thought I had transmitted and gave him a report. Spinning back to his frequency, I heard him confirm it. I have no idea if he called me any other times, and I sure don't recommend this method for working split. But this once when it really counted, it worked for me. And I have the QSL to prove it.

EIDXA Membership roles April 1995

KU0A	Nelson Moyer	28 Ealing Dr.	Iowa City,	IA 52246	319-351-3775
K0AL	Al Culbert	328 Norman Dr. NE	Cedar Rapids,	IA 52402	
W00AWL	Terry Cellman	703 Lincoln St.	Ainsworth,	IA 52201	319-657-3681
W00B	Larry J. Newby	P.O. Box 185	West Burlington,	IA 52655	319-752-8700
KZ0C	Jim Bohnsack	1169 Rainbow Dr.	Waterloo,	IA 50701	319-233-7189
KA0CNR	Tom Kueny	2025 Cardinal Lane. N.E.	North Liberty	IA 52317	319-626-2000
KA0CWR	Mary Dennis	400 E. Vine	Toledo,	IA 52342	515-484-4637
WV0D	Terry Perkins	3119 Falcon Dr NE	Cedar Rapids,	IA 52402	319-393-5505
W0EJ	Wade Walstrom	7431 Macon Drive NE	Cedar Rapids,	IA 52411	319-393-6982
NM0F	D.Wayne Kinnard	219 Park Lane	E. Dubuque,	IL 61025	815-747-2006
WA0FYG	Rick Hadley	115 Scenic Dr.	Vinton	IA 52349	
AA0GG	Frank Weigelt	4055 Stewart Dr NE	Iowa City	IA 52240	
K0GT	Gary Toomsen	2730 Tower Dr.	Cedar Rapids,	IA 52411	319-395-9329
W0GWK	Frank Apple	1935 16th St.	Marion	IA 52302	319-377-3565
KF0H	Jim Harvey	819 N. Main St.	Goldfield,	IA 50542	515-825-3523
KJ0H	John Schwandke	307 Myrtle Lane	Muscatine,	IA 52761	
NB0H	Jack Muckler	2084 Eastern Blvd. SE	Cedar Rapids,	IA 52403	319-362-3462
WK0I	Terry Parker	535 Sierra Dr	Burlington,	IA 52601	319-753-1557
K0IIR	Clark Pantel	1610 Hershey Ave.	Muscatine,	IA 52761	319-263-9150
K0INR	Tom Taylor	RR 1	Shell Rock,	IA 50670	319-885-4400
W0IZ	Dale Repp	1618 Texas Ave. NE	Cedar Rapids,	IA 52402	319-393-6724
K0JGH	Glen Kesselring	RR #7 Box 160	Ottumwa,	IA 52501	515-934-5320
NN9K	Peter E Beadlow	741 Greenway Ave	Colona,	IL 61241	309-792-0222
NN0L	Ron Borkgren	1106 E. 2nd St.	Anamosa	IA 52205	319-462-4113
AB0M	Vern Lang	110 E. 2nd St.	Muscatine,	IA 52761	319-263-2697
AA0ME	Tom Irwin	1023 Kirkwood Ave.	Iowa City	IA 52240	
W0MJN	Joe Finkstein	2210 Empire St.	Marion,	IA 52302	319-377-6573
KE0MO	Tom Redlinger	RR 1 BOX 146	Keota,	IA 52248	515-636-2297
NK0N	Orville Duecker	226 Southcrest	Waterloo,	IA 50702	319-296-2390
W0NB	Jim Livengood	R.R. 1, Ferre's Lane	Burlington,	IA 52601	319-752-9510
NC0O	Tom Hise	PO Box 104	Shellsburg,	IA 52332	319-436-7766
N90K	Al Broendel	2712 38th St.	Rock Island	IL 61201	
NU0P	Steve White	5820 Sanden Rd. NE	Cedar Rapids,	IA 52411	319-393-4547
W0PPF	George Carsner	411 Terrace Rd.	Iowa City,	IA 52245	319-338-1601
WW0Q	Rich Bingham	707 12th Ave.	Coralville	IA 52241	319-351-4098
KC0Q	Jeff Russell	2125 Linmar Dr. NE	Cedar Rapids,	IA 52402	319-363-4139
K0RW	John Lenahan	923 N. 9th St.	Burlington,	IA 52601	319-753-6883
N0SM	Steve Miller	Route 6 Box 180	Ottumwa,	IA 52501	515-684-4753
W0SML	Doug Byal	2323 Springbrook Dr, NE	Cedar Rapids,	IA 52411	319-393-2974
W0SR	Jim Spencer	3712 Tanager Dr. NE	Cedar Rapids,	IA 52402	319-393-7353
W0STIH	John S Simander	Box 763	Muscatine,	IA 52761	319-263-6107
KK0U	Paul Feddersen	703 Eclipse Lane	Clinton,	IA 52732	319-242-9910
WR0U	Scott Augsburg	9 Westwood Drive	Mt. Pleasant	IA 52641	319-986-5855
WE0U	George Gruenther	1106 S. Leebrick	Burlington,	IA 52601	319-753-1461
W0UZ	John Nelson	3109 Terry Dr. SE	Cedar Rapids,	IA 52403	319-365-4432
NY0V	Tom Vinson	10211 Hall Road NE	Cedar Rapids,	IA 52411	319-393-9087
K0VM	Al Groff	1446 Council St. NE	Cedar Rapids,	IA 52402	319-393-8134
K0VZR	Tom White	2027 Carter Ave	Jesup,	IA 50648	319-827-6738
AB9W	Larry Dickinson	4321 5th St	East Moline,	IL 61244	309-796-1059
NG0W	Keith Erickson	1810 Hillside Dr NW	Cedar Rapids,	IA 52405	319-396-8510
W0WP	Tom Lindgren	9786 Blairs Ferry Rd.	Cedar Rapids	IA 52411	319-395-0948
KE0Y	Tom Kramer	905 LeRoy	Muscatine,	IA 52761	319-264-3259
W0ZKG	Chuck Dennis	400 E. Vine	Toledo,	IA 52342	515-484-4637
W0ZRL	Tom Vavra	682 Palisades Access Rd.	Ely,	IA 52227	319-848-7604

5 Years Ago Spring 1990

KH5 Jarvis Island - AH3C/KH5J was hoping for a new country from this one, but we all settled for a Palmyra counter.

S2 Bangladesh - S20VT (Vince, K5VT) and S21U (JH1AJT et al) were the first ones to get this rare one on the air.

A5 Bhutan - VK9NS worked many as A51JS. Many more did not work him and still are looking for this one.

KH7 Kure - KH6JEB/KH7 was everywhere on the bands.

XU Kampuchea - XU8CW and XU8DX were the calls assigned HASPP and HASWE. For two weeks they handed out contacts to the deserving.

PY0T Trindade - ZZ0TA was one of the calls of this group.

ZK2 Niue - Ron, ZL1AMO, spent two weeks as ZK2RW. Mats, SM7PKK, also was signing ZK2KK.

1S Spratly - 1S0XV was activated by a group of Russian operators.

ST0 South Sudan - PA3CXC/ST0 was active.

FT5X Kerguelen - FT5XA, FT5XH and FT4XG were the resident hams this season.

3D2 Conway Reef - An international team of operators had 3D2AM on the air for ten days working everyone who called them.

70 Yeman - Operators from 9K activated this rare country, almost exclusively on SSB. QSLs were difficult to get, especially after 9K was invaded.

3A Monaco - K4UEE signed portable 3A, mostly on cw, to fill the needs of the cw DXer.

10 Years Ago Spring 1985

BY Recently activated China was well represented by BY5RA, BY1PK and BY4AA.

KP1 6Y5NR led a team to Navassa signing 6Y5NR/KP1. They left with 13,000 QSOs in the log.

3B7 SM0AGD and LA7XB traveled to 3B6 only to be denied landing permission in St Brandon, where "radio operations are now authorized only for residents of Mauritius."

FO0 FO0XX was active on all bands and modes for 6 days from Clipperton. Over 31,000 contacts were made, but the Europeans felt they were ignored during their best propagation.

KH4 KD7P and NA6T operated from Midway, but left many on the East coast still needing this one on the low bands.

XU XU1SS was on again, off again. There was uncertainty about his actual QTH (was it Thailand or Cambodia?), but nobody really pushed the issue as long as it counted for Cambodia.

WWV Solar Flux ranged between 69 and 94 during April. As it did then, it will soon get better!

ZA Rumors about Martti getting permission to operate /ZA led to a bunch of pirates signing ZA/OH2BH. These were teasers until ZA1A finally came on the air in 1991.

Well known DXers who become silent keys were Don Wallace, W6AM, and Father Dave Reddy, CE0AE.

UNDERSTANDING WWV PROPAGATION BULLETINS
(ADAPTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY DAN, NI9Y)
=====

The rotational period of the sun is 27.5 days.

The National Bureau of Standards radio station, WWV, Ft. Collins, CO., transmits hourly bulletins, beginning at 18 minutes past the hour, on solar activity and the condition of the earth's magnetic field. WWVH, Hawaii, transmits this information at 45 minutes past the hour.

The WWV bulletins give the solar flux, and a-index for the previous universal time (UT) day; the Boulder K-index (changed every 3 hours), and the state of solar activity and the condition of the earth's magnetic field for the previous 24 hours and the same factors predicted for the coming 24 hours.

The solar flux is a measure of the sun's radiation at 2800 mhz, taken daily at 1700 utc in Ottawa, Canada. A solar flux value of 66 means quiet sun conditions.

A steady increase or fall in solar flux shows radio propagation effects for several days. flux readings of 80 or more will make the 21 and 28 mhz bands come alive. Sustained solar flux above 200 means round the clock openings. Solar flux above 250 in the spring and fall means 50 mhz openings.

The A-index is a 24 hour figure for the geomagnetic field on a scale of 0 to 400, though indices of 100 are rare.

The K-index is like the A-index except that it is the current reading to give you 3 hour, short-term geomagnetic field figures, beginning at 0000 Universal time. The K-index translates to an A-index as follows:

K	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	0	3	7	15	27	48	80	140	240	400

Solar activity is the fast changing conditions that affect propagation. Activity is given as very low, low, moderate, high, or very high.

Geomagnetic field conditions are stated as follows:

QUIET	A-INDEX < 8
UNSETTLED	8 <= A-INDEX < 15
ACTIVE	15 <= A-INDEX < 30
Minor Geomagnetic Storm	30 <= A-INDEX < 50
Major Geomagnetic Storm	50 <= A-INDEX < 100
Severe Geomagnetic Storm	100 <= A-INDEX

The sunspot number (R) is not the number of sunspots. It is derived from the formula:

$$R=K(10G +S)$$

G=NUMBER OF SUNSPOT GROUPS
S=NUMBER OF SUNSPOTS
K=THE OBSERVATORY FACTOR

PacketCluster Notes
by WB8ZRL

Two years ago AK1A, the author of the PacketCluster software, announced that he was working on the next version of the software. He was attempting to do some challenging things, but all of these had solutions in the commercial or government worlds, so he wasn't trying to do the impossible. Last spring, AK1A received the Technical Achievement Award at Dayton, and promised the release of the new software during the summer. It was during this same summer, that he stopped answering his phone, returning calls, or even logging into the W6GO BBS where cluster software updates are available for download. For whatever reason, AK1A has opted to just drop out.

This past December, a message showed up on the cluster sysops reflector (an Internet feature) from VE3CDX, saying that, with AK1A's 'blessing', he was going to rewrite the PacketCluster software and assume the maintenance responsibility. When this will be available is unknown, but there will be (at least) two sessions at Dayton that will address the topic. I hope to return from Dayton with a 'warm fuzzy' of when I can get it and what new features it will have.

Features that I am looking for, and have reason to expect will be there, include being able to TALK and SEND to users on the other side of limited protocol links (like between here and NC0P), and one that will allow further control over DX alerts. In particular, I expect to be able to suppress a DX alert if it is older than XX minutes. This will get rid of those 3 hour old alerts like we saw in the last contest.

Activity during this Winter's contests has been reasonably high. The ARRL contests and CQ WPX contest had between 2500 and 3600 spots each. Thanks to those that SET/FILTER to suppress those alerts they really did not need. The traffic was reduced, and it really made a difference on 144.91 and 223.40 which also are backbone frequencies.

Unlike last year, there are no cluster items on the purchase list going to Dayton. No big changes are anticipated this year to the hardware. Some antenna relocation and/or replacement may happen, but nothing is planned so far.

This past Fall, W0SR convinced me to subscribe to America OnLine (AOL). Having done that, I have been able to obtain an assortment of DX bulletins. When I do find them, I post them on the cluster in the BULLETINS area (sh/bul). Generally the current ARRL, W6TI, and Ohio Penn bulletins are there. Occasionally the RTTY, DX News Letter (from Germany) and 160NEWS (from the Slovak Rep) get posted too. An occasional SH/BUL will show what is currently available. By the way, after the bulletins have been online for 14 days, I move them to an archive area. They can be listed/read by SH/ARCH or TYPE/ARCH name but be careful, there are currently over three screens to SH/ARCH. Use of DOS wildcard filenames is allowed (eg SH/ARCH RTTY* to see just the RTTY bulletins in the ARCH area). I try to keep the last three or four months worth of bulletins in the ARCH area before I remove them. I am not sure if all of these bulletins are available on G3WJN or N4RR nodes. If there is any interest in getting them forwarded there, please let me know.

A final comment. We are entering the thunderstorm season. Last year I got all the way into September with out disconnect during a storm. And this time the lightning did the disconnecting, taking out some equipment. I have already pulled the plug once, and I suspect that I will do it a few more times than last year.

International Postage rates to rise

The following appeared in today's newspapers regarding pending increase in international postage rates ---

"INTERNATIONAL MAIL TO COST MORE IN JUNE"

..."WASHINGTON (AP) --- The cost of mailing a letter overseas will go up in June.....

A 1/2 ounce letter to most foreign countries will cost --- 60 cents ---, a 10 cent increase, the U. S. P. S. announced Tuesday, March 7.

...Mail to Canada will cost 46 cents per 1/2-ounce, up from present 40 cent rate. The rate for Mexico, now 35 cents per 1/2-ounce, is also expected to raise but postal officials were not immediately able to suggest the new rate."

F.Y.I. --- Current rate until June for I.R.C.'s is still 95 cents -- local post office here has told me that they, too, will certainly increase in June to probably at least \$1.05 or more --- SO-- BUY THE I.R.C.'s you need NOW!!!

73 de K9APW Dick, at Madison, WI @ WI9L node ---

Thanks to the following for inputs to this newsletter: WD0AWL, WB0ZKG, AA0GG, W0SR, K0GT, NI9Y and K9APW. A newlsetter isn't possible without lots of help.

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Ely, Iowa 52227-9717



Jim Spencer W0SR
3712 Tanager Dr. NE
Cedar Rapids, Ia 52402